

NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



SDNG NAMES BUILDING AND GATE HONORING LEGACY OF SERVICE



South Dakota Army National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Marlette highlighted the achievements of the honorees during a building and gate dedication ceremony held at Camp Rapid's Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City, on July 6, 2023.

Soldiers honored with a building hall were Maj. Gen. (Ret) Raymond Carpenter, Brig. Gen. (Ret) Chris Mechling, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Paul Mechling, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) John Mechling, and Col. (Ret) Lowell Davis.

Soldiers honored with gates were Col. (Ret) William Hazle, Chief Warrant Officer 5 (Ret)

Duke Doering, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret) Richard Trankle.

All of these dedicated indi-

viduals were thanked for their service and commitment to the South Dakota National Guard and to this country.

Table of Contents
Cutler Recognized by SDHCA 2
Fallen Hero Bridge Dedications 3
AL Aux. Golf Tournament 4
AL Homecoming Ceremony 5
VMC Poker Run6
AL Homecoming Events 7
PACT Act 7
Upcoming Events 8-9



CUTLER PRESENTED SDHCA MILLIE E. OLSON AWARD

Chona Cutler, certified nurse assistant at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, has been named the July recipient of the Millie E. Olson Award. The Olson Award is presented by the South Dakota Health Care Association.

SDHCA shared these comments when presenting the award to Cutler:

- * Her commitment to her residents and colleagues knows no bounds.
- She carries herself with compassion and empathy, and her smile always lifts the spirits of everyone around her.
- She is an extraordinarily gifted caregiver, both in terms of her skillset and her mindset.
- Her patience and understanding help residents remain calm even under stressful circumstances.
- * Chona is a team player and can adapt to changing environments quickly.
- She has a sense of comradery and a positive attitude she brings to every situation.

Chona has been with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs since 2016. She has made a real and lasting impact in the lives of our residents, families, and staff members.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Chona.



SOUTH DAKOTA DEDICATES JORGENSEN BRIDGE

Family and friends gathered July 7 in Chamberlain as South Dakota dedicated the Nelson Creek Bridge on SD HWY 50 honoring U.S. Army Specialist Five Samuel J. Jorgensen. In connection with ground operations against a hostile force on February 14, 1970, Jorgensen heroically distinguished himself while serving as a loader with Company M 3rd Squadron, 11th Ar-



mored Calvary Regiment, in the Republic of Vietnam.

Troop C,

with Specialist Jorgensen's platoon attached, was summoned to aid an infantry unit who had engaged a well-entrenched enemy force. Upon arrival at the scene of contact, the tanks began to assault the enemy bunkers. Jorgensen's tank was struck by a rocket propelled grenade. Jorgensen died of multiple wounds.

To date, South Dakota has dedicated 36 bridges, honor-

ing 39 heroes.

There are five remaining bridges to be dedicated this year. Please check the calendar of events on pages eight and nine for dates and logistics.





American Legion Auxiliary

Unit 15 - Golf Tournament

August 15th, 2023

Elmwood Golf Course

"Chip in for Vets!"

ALL PROCEEDS GO
TO ASSIST IN
FURNISHINGS FOR
THE VETERANS
COMMUNITY
PROJECT (TINY
HOMES FOR
VETERANS!

Registration: 8 - 9 (Coffee & Rolls) Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.

FORMAT:

4 Person Scramble

FLIGHTED:

Pay 3 FLIGHTS: 1st, 2nd 3rd each flight PIN PRIZES: Front and Back Nine

American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 15 - Invites you to participate at these sponsorship levels!

"GOLD" SPONSOR - \$5000
Clubhouse Banner, Two Teams
"RED" SPONSOR - \$1000
1 Team & Hole Sign
"WHITE" SPONSOR - \$500
Hole Sign
"BLUE" SPONSOR - \$100
Hole Sign
"PATRIOT" SPONSOR - \$500

The ALA is a 501c19 Non Profit Organization!

Food, Sponsor Recognition Signs

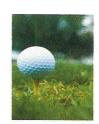
For more info contact: Golf Committee

Kasey Jacobson - 605-270-9289 email: jacobson1122@gmail.com Karen Dunham - 605-366-3291

email: karendunham@dunhamresidential.com

Deb Metzger - 605-366-7379

email: debmetzger@dunhamresidential.com



MUST PRE-PAY TO SECURE A SPOT FOR YOUR TEAM!

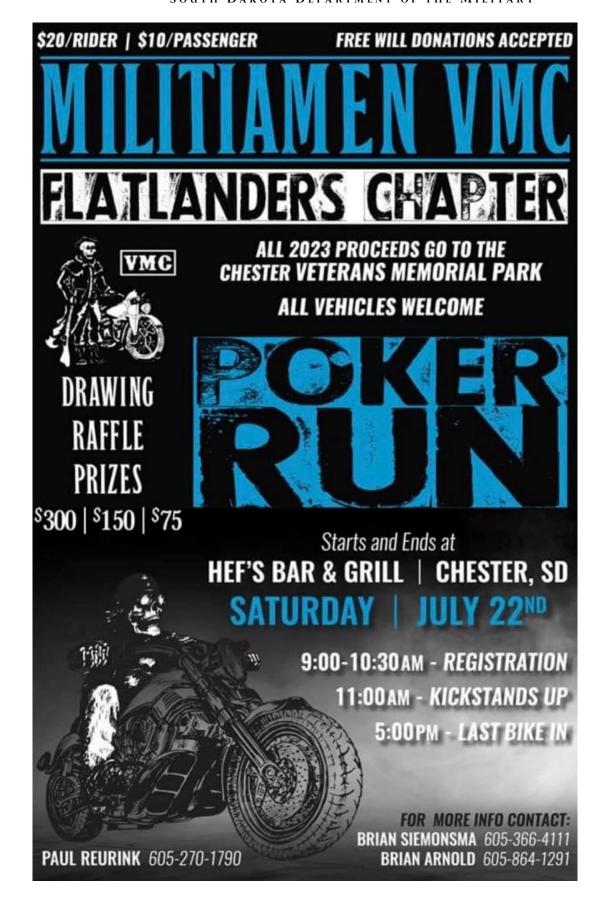
Mulligans 2 for \$10

Available Day of

Tournament!

Tournament Limited to 144 Players!





AMERICAN LEGION HOMECOMING EVENTS

American Legion State Commander Steffen's homecoming will be held at the Chester Community Center (401 4th Street) in Chester on July 22. Social will begin at 2:30 pm with program at 3:30pm. Free

will donation meal to follow in conjunction with the Flatlanders Militia Men Poker Run to raise funds for the Chester Veterans Memorial.

The new American Legion Department Auxiliary President, Patsy Madsen, will hold her homecoming July 22 at the Gregory American Legion Post 6 (223 Main Street) in Gregory. Social at 11:30am, meal at noon followed by the program at 1:00pm.





UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 17—Tee it Up for the Troops—Arrowhead Country Club—Rapid City—8:00 am (MT)
- Jul 19—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Rosalies—(9 8th Avenue E)—Sisseton—9:00 am (CT)
- Jul 20—Rosebud Sioux Tribe Veterans Stand Down—Sinte Gleska University—(101 Antelope Circle)—Mission—10:00 am (CT)
- Jul 22—1st Annual Wings of Valor Poker Run—Wings of Valor—(45618 278th Street)—Parker—11:00 am (CT)
- Jul 22—SD American Legion State President's Homecoming—Gregory American Legion Post—(223 Main Street)—Gregory—11:30 am (CT)
- Jul 22—SD American Legion Commander's Homecoming—Chester Community Center—(401 4th Street)—Chester—2:30 pm (CT)
- Jul 28-29—"Last Out" production—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Jul 29-30—Sioux Falls Air Show
- Jul 29—Korean War/Defense Veterans Appreciation Day—Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center— (2810 22nd Avenue S)—Brookings—9:00 am to 3:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 6—American Legion Riders Post 71 Annual Fall River Freedom Ride—Begins at Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home—(2500 Minnekahta Avenue)—Hot Springs—9:00 am (MT)
- Aug 8—VA PACT Act Benefits and Healthcare Drive—Armory at the SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1700 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—11:00 am to 1:30 pm and 4:00 to 6:30 pm (CT)
- Aug 10-11—South Dakota Suicide Prevention Conference—Sioux Falls Convention Center
- Aug 15—2nd Annual American Legion Auxiliary Unity 15 "Chip in for Vets" Golf Tournament—Elmwood Golf Course—(2604 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—Shotgun Start at 9:00 am (CT)
- Aug 19—SFVAHCS Show and Shine
- Aug 26—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—LTC Gordon J. Lippman—St. Rose of Lima Community Hall— (305 Pine Street)—Hill City—2:00 pm (MT)
- Aug 27—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SP5 John P. Beckers—VFW (Main Street)—Burke—2:00 pm (CT)
- Aug 28—Barrel House Day of Giving for Midwest Honor Flight
- Aug 31—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
- Aug 31—Sept 4—SD State Fair
- Sep 2—727th/DAV Poker Run—Dacotah Bank Center—(824 32nd Avenue)—Brookings—10:00 am (CT)
- Sep 4—State Offices Closed
- Sep 5—7—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
- Sep 8-10—PVA North Central Chapter Trapshoot—Crooks Gun Club
- Sep 13-16—Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon
- Sep 16—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—LT Peter H. Monfore—Community Hall—(605 8th Street)— Springfield—2:00 pm (CT)
- Sep 20—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Rapid City—9:00 am (MT)
- Sep 26—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 16
- Oct 7—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—WO1 Roger S. Cameron—Community Building—(311 W. Main)—Pierpont—1:30 pm (CT)
- Oct 7—DAV Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls
- Oct 9—State Offices Closed
- Oct 10—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 17
- Oct 14—SD Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—1LT Thomas M. Martin—Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 21—Elvis Night/50's Dance Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls

Nov 4—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)

Nov 10—State Offices Closed

Nov 13—Barrel House Day of Giving for SDVC Wreaths Across America

Nov 15—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—(1519 W. 51st Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)

Nov 15—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Sioux Falls

Nov 16—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Northeast

Nov 17—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—Central

Nov 18—South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Round Table—West River

Nov 23—State Offices Closed

Dec 16—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

Dec 25-State Offices Closed

2024 Events

Jan 10—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—Pierre—2:00 pm (CT)

Jan 10—SDDVA and South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Reception—American Legion Post 8—(520 S. Pierre Street)—Pierre—5:30 pm (CT)

Feb 16—18—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Deadwood

Jun 20—23—American Legion State Conference—Pierre

Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

2025 Events

Feb 14—16—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Oacoma

Jun 19—22—American Legion State Conference—Huron

Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)

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South Dakota Department of the Military https://military.sd.gov/

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